

Thomas Jefferson to John F. Mercer, September 5, 1797, from The Works of Thomas Jefferson in Twelve Volumes. Federal Edition. Collected and Edited by Paul Leicester Ford.

TO JOHN FRANCIS MERCER J. MSS.

Monticello, September 5, 1797.

* * * We have now with us our friend Monroe. He is engaged in stating his conduct for the information of the public. As yet, however, he has done little, being too much occupied with re-arranging his household. His preliminary skirmish with the Secretary of state has, of course, bespoke a suspension of the public mind, till he can lay his statement before them. Our Congressional district is fermenting under the presentment of their representative by the Grand jury: and the question of a Convention for forming a State Constitution will probably be attended to in these parts. These are the news of our canton. Those of a more public nature you know before we do. My best respects to mrs. Mercer, and assurances to yourself of the affectionate esteem of, dear Sir, your friend and servant.